

Amendments to the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 19, 20, 27, 30, and 31 and cancel claim 15 as indicated. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

1. (currently amended) A tamper notification and protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting to be protected ~~having threads~~, a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

a tapered cylinder having a base and inner and outer surfaces with securing means, ~~said first fitting receivable by said tapered cylinder if said first fitting has threads on an outer surface and said tapered cylinder receivable by said first fitting if said first fitting has threads on an inner surface;~~

a first strap attached to one side of the cylinder and bendable about the valve, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable; and

a second strap attached to another side of the cylinder and bendable about the valve; and

means for fastening said first strap to said second strap.

2. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a tab disposed on said first strap, said tab including perforations.

3. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising at least one indentation at which said first and second straps are bendable.

4. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a series of indentations, said first and second straps each bendable at each indentation of said series.
5. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising channels at which said first and second straps are bendable.
6. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said means for fastening includes a tongue included within said first strap.
7. (original) The device of claim 6 wherein said means for fastening includes a tongue receiver included within said second strap.
8. (original) The device of claim 7 wherein said tongue includes a saw edge fastenable to said tongue receiver.
9. (original) The device of claim 8 wherein said tongue receiver includes a protrusion preventing said saw edge tongue from being retracted after insertion.
10. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a base extends from said ring forming a needle eye shaped.
11. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and second straps are comprised of plastic.
12. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said cylinder is comprised of plastic.
13. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first strap is bendable at three locations and said second strap is bendable at one location, said straps forming a square-like shape when fastened to one another.

14. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and second straps are integral with one another.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said securing means are tangs.

17. (original) A tamper notification and protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting to be protected, a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

means for blocking particles from entering said first fitting, said means for blocking receivable by said first fitting; and

first and second straps bendable about said valve and attached to said means for blocking said first fitting, said means for blocking disposed between said straps, and said first strap fastenable to said second strap.

18. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said means for blocking is a thimble.

19. (currently amended) The device of claim 17 wherein said thimble includes an inner surface and an outer surface, ~~said surfaces having tangs receiving a thread of said first fitting~~ either one or both of said surfaces having tangs connectable to said fitting.

20. (currently amended) The device of claim 19 wherein said first fitting is receivable by said thimble when said ~~first fitting has threads on an outer surface~~ thimble has tangs on an inner surface and said thimble is receivable by said first fitting when said ~~first fitting has threads on an inner surface~~ thimble has tangs on an outer surface.

21. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a tab disposed on said first strap, said tab including perforations.

22. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a ring disposed on said first strap, said burst disk insertable through said ring.

23. (original) The device of claim 22 wherein a base extends from said ring forming a needle eye shaped.

24. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising an indentation at which said strap is bendable.

25. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said second strap further comprises a first strap receiver.

26. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said means for blocking is a tapered cylinder having a base.

27. (currently amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said tapered cylinder having a base includes an inner surface having tangs and an outer surface having tangs, wherein said first fitting is receivable by said tapered cylinder when said tapered cylinder has tangs on said inner surface ~~first fitting has threads on an outer surface~~ and said tapered cylinder is receivable by said first fitting when said ~~first fitting has threads on an inner surface~~ tapered cylinder has tangs on said outer surface.

28. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said first strap is bendable at three locations and said second strap is bendable at one location, said straps forming a square-like shape when fastened to one another.

29. (original) A tamper notification and protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting to be protected and a second fitting connectable to a tank, said device comprising:

first and second enclosing means for enclosing said valve;

means for blocking particles from entering said first fitting, said means for blocking attached to and disposed between said first and second enclosing means; and

means for fastening said first enclosing means to said second enclosing means, wherein upon blocking particles from entering said first fitting with said means for blocking and upon enclosing said valve with said means for enclosing, said first enclosing means is fastened to said second enclosing means.

30. (currently amended) A protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting connectable to a distribution mechanism ~~and having threads~~, and a second fitting connectable to a tank, said device comprising:

a tapered cylinder having a base, an inner surface with securing means, and an outer surface with securing means, said tapered cylinder attachable to said fitting with either said securing means of said inner surface or said securing means of said outer surface ~~tapered cylinder receivable by said first fitting if said first fitting has threads on an inner surface and said first fitting receivable by said tapered cylinder if said first fitting has threads on an outer surface.~~

31. (currently amended) A protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting connectable to a distribution mechanism ~~and having threads~~, and a second fitting connectable to a tank, said device comprising:

a tapered thimble having inner and outer surfaces with securing means for attachment ~~to a thread~~ of said fitting with either said inner or outer securing means.

32. (original) The device of claim 31 wherein said inner and outer securing means are tangs.